

PRINCETON NURSERIES KINGSTON SITE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT  
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Figure III.1. This 2002 aerial shows a portion of the former Kingston Site. The operation core is visible at the upper left-hand corner. During the most recent period, many greenhouses and poly houses south of the propagation house have been removed from the landscape. Courtesy New Jersey Geography Network. (R-PRN-NJGIN-G10B7-2002Aerial.jpg)



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Figure III.2. Another 2002 aerial shows the western portion of the former Kingston Site. The 220-unit Barclay Square subdivision is partially visible at the lower right-hand corner. While extant windrows remain evident, it is likely that many of the production fields began transition to old field succession. Courtesy New Jersey Geography Network. (R-PRN-NJGIN-G10B6-2002Aerial.jpg)



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Figure III.3. A 2007 aerial reveals the most recent changes in the former nursery landscape. A considerable amount of dense development has occurred in the southern portion. The remaining greenhouses and poly houses were removed with only the propagation house and original eight greenhouses remaining. Some informal circulation alignments are evident within the former core. The cluster of buildings that included the dormitory and pool has also been removed. Courtesy New Jersey Geography Network. (R-PRN-NJGIN-2007Aerial.jpg)



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Figure III.4. This circa 2003 oblique aerial looks southwest across the former nursery core, depicting details of changes made in the landscape. Two housing developments are visible at the top of the image. The cluster of greenhouses and poly houses has been removed. The former site of this cluster is evident through the disturbed ground plane. The transition of production fields to mixed meadow and old field succession is also evident. In spite of changes, many historic features remain, including the packing shed, tree storage building, and propagation house. The Princeton Sentry gingko tree row (circled in orange) remains a visually prominent feature. Courtesy Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. (R-PRN-DRC-Apr09-0004-c2003-adjust.jpg)



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Figure III.5. While many landscape features have been lost over time, the visually prominent windrows remain throughout the former nursery lands. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN\_20090401\_0021.JPG)



Figure III.6. The linear spatial quality seen throughout the landscape is illustrated in this image. The packing shed and tree building are set parallel with the asphalt area. The office, visible in the background, is set perpendicularly to the features in the foreground. Courtesy Heritage Landscape. (R-PN-HL-11-25-2008\_071.JPG)



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Figure III.7. This field is the former site of a cluster of buildings including the worker dormitory and swimming pool. While the building cluster has been removed, the open field with vegetation along the perimeter conveys the historic spatial organization. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0035.jpg)



Figure III.89. This view looks east past the entry landscape and toward the former nursery core. A stately row of Princeton Sentry ginkgo lines the south (right) side of the road, framing linear views through the space. Remnant stone curbing is evident around the turf island in the foreground. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN\_20090402\_0043.jpg)



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Figure III.9. Mature planted trees and volunteer growth frame and enclose views along this gently curving road, located at the eastern edge of Mapleton Preserve. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-07013 D9-012.jpg)



Figure III.10. The propagation house and eight original greenhouses are valuable historic features. Volunteer growth obscures views of these important landscape features and adversely impacts the built resources. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-PropHouse-Veg.jpg)



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Figure III.11. This view looks northwest from the southeastern corner of Mapleton Preserve. The mown turf area was once the site of dozens of greenhouses and the potting shed. Intersecting gravel roads continue to define the spatial patterns of the former operation core. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PN-HL-11-25-2008\_078-adj.jpg)



Figure III.12. This former production field, located west of Mapleton Road, displays taller, mixed meadow species grass. The height of the vegetation indicates it has not been mown as recently as some areas in the former core. Woody growth is not yet evident. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0159.JPG)



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Figure III.13. A mound of earth with low-growing vegetation has been bermed along the north side of a former access way. The access road is surfaced with short, mown turf. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0111.JPG)



Figure III.14. These tree rows are among the little remnant stock evident in the landscape today. As volunteer growth continues to spread throughout the ground plane, this linear planting will become obscured. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-07013 D9-042.jpg)



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Figure III.15. Two prominent rows of remnant nursery stock are evident in the lands west of Mapleton Road. Here a row of Japanese maple forms a striking landscape feature. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0157.JPG)



Figure III.16. Some of the plantings in the entry landscape are depicted here. Several mature trees grow within two mown turf islands. Additional plantings at the office and former blacksmith shop are also evident. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0043.jpg)



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Figure III.17. A row of Princeton Sentry ginkgo continues to line the extant gravel road that extends east from the entry landscape and into the former nursery core. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-07013 D9-004.jpg)



Figure III.18. This large, spreading red oak that grows alongside a compacted dirt road remains as a specimen tree today, marking the northern edge of the former worker dormitory building cluster. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0044.jpg)



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Figure III.19. This view looks east across Mapleton Road and toward the entry landscape for both the Mapleton Preserve and the D&R Canal State Park headquarters. Mature deciduous, evergreen, and ornamental plantings enhance the entry experience. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (1).jpg)



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Figure III.20. Remnant plantings are evident in the landscape surrounding the preserved lands. This dramatic oak allée was planted by William Flemer Jr. and today lines the entry road to Mapleton Nurseries. The road is on the bed of the former Camden & Amboy Railroad. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-2Apr09-0011.jpg)



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Figure III.21. The ground plane within the chain link fence enclosure is maintained less regularly than the surrounding area. Here, mixed species turf grows to about one foot tall at the west side of the propagation house and greenhouse. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0057.JPG)



Figure III.22. Dense volunteer vegetation, including woody growth, covers this former production field, making accessibility to pedestrians difficult. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0114.JPG)



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Figure III.23. Volunteer vegetation is also evident in this former production field although the ground plane is more open with large patches of bare soil. A row of arborvitae grows at the field edge. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0110.JPG)



Figure III.24. A change in vegetative cover to a wetland species through the center of the former wholesale distribution yard indicates a change in natural hydrology. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0080.JPG)



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Figure III.25. A woodland that existed throughout the Princeton Nurseries history remains at the eastern edge of Mapleton Preserve. Although no formal trails provide access through the wooded area, it does create a scenic character that differs from the broader landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0128.JPG)



Figure III.26. This section of road is located at the southeast edge of Mapleton Preserve. Overall the road is surfaced in gravel while this southern portion is a mix of gravel and compacted dirt with a central turf panel. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0131.jpg)



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Figure III.27. This view looks west from the eastern gravel road. Here it intersects with another gravel road that extends from the entry landscape out toward the core. Princeton Sentry ginkgo line the road to the south (left). Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PRN-RvZ-07013 D9-001.JPG)



Figure III.28. A portion of railroad track remains in this asphalt patch at the west edge of the former wholesale nursery yard. This provides a strong interpretive feature to understand the historic transportation corridor. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0074.JPG)



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Figure III.29. This image looks west along a turf road that extends through a former production field. The turf here is taller and more overgrown than on other roads that appear to have been mown more recently. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0133.JPG)



Figure III.30. An unnamed secondary brook runs alongside Railroad Avenue, visible in the right-hand foreground. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0069.JPG)



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Figure III.31. Prolific vegetation surrounds the widened portion of the north-south brook. This portion of the brook is located at the east edge of the former distribution yard and likely contributes to the wetter ground conditions. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0085.JPG)



Figure III.32 Extant features from the former irrigation system can be found throughout the landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0096.JPG)



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Figure III.33. A manmade pond, originally created to solve a drainage problem, is located in the Flemer Arboretum. Dense vegetation, including several young pin oak, surrounds the water feature. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0023.JPG)



Figure III.34. The former Princeton Nurseries office building and blacksmith shop provide facilities for the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park today. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (6).jpg)



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Figures III.35. This view depicts the current condition of the packing shed. It has deteriorated over time and volunteer vegetation grows along the foundation. A chain link fence has been erected to restrict public access to this building as well as the tree storage building and propagation house. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (10)-adj.jpg)



Figure III.36. This view, taken from inside the chain link enclosure, illustrates the disrepair that has occurred at the propagation house and extant greenhouses. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (32).jpg)



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Figure III.37. A number of former worker residences remain in place, but long vacant, on Greenwood Avenue. The houses have historic preservation easements and are now being restored/ rehabilitated. This residence reflects the yellow and white color scheme implemented by William Flemer Jr. Courtesy Robert von Zumbusch. (R-PN-RvZ 003 (60).jpg)



Figures III.38. A wooden post that once held three horizontal rails remains standing at the west edge of the Flemer Arboretum. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0009.JPG)



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Figure III.39. At the southern edge of the Flemer Arboretum, a portion of the wooden post and rail fence remains in the landscape. Prolific vegetation impacts the historic resource. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-19May09-0014.JPG)



Figure III.40. Additional post and rail fencing remains as a barrier between Railroad Avenue and the stone culvert. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0093.JPG)



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Figure III.41. Two signs mark the entry drive. The brown sign notes this as the site of the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park headquarters and the white sign notes this is the entry into Mapleton Preserve. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0073.JPG)



Figure III.42. A rusty rock picker remains in the landscape today. It is an intriguing folly in the landscape. The spread of vegetation nearly completely obscures it once the plants produce leaves. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-PRN-Apr09-0054.JPG)